



Work clothes

Lesson code: A3G3-57N9-2HER

INTERMEDIATE +

1 Work clothing

Look at the following items of work clothing. Think of a typical job for each item.

a hard hat
high heels

a lab coat
overalls

an apron
scrubs

a suit
trousers

a uniform

What do you wear at work?

2 Dress code

Read the following text and put the words in bold next to their correct definitions on the next page. Change the form of the word if necessary.



A London receptionist, 27-year-old Nicola Thorp, was sent home without pay when she **turned up** in flat shoes for a receptionist job at the finance company PricewaterhouseCoopers.

A supervisor told her she would be sent home without pay if she did not go to a shop and buy a pair of two to four inch heels. When she complained that men were allowed to wear flat shoes in the office, her employers laughed at her. She was also told to wear makeup and she was given a colour chart of 'acceptable shades'.

Nicola later spoke to her friends about what happened and wrote a post on Facebook. She soon discovered that many other women were **sympathetic** and she decided to start an online **petition** to make it illegal to force women to wear heels and makeup at work.

On the UK's parliament website, she writes: 'It's still legal in the UK for a company to require female members of staff to wear high heels at work **against their will**. **Dress code** laws should be changed so that women have the option to wear flat formal shoes at work, if they wish. Current formal work dress codes are **outdated** and sexist.'

In the UK, if 10,000 people sign a petition, the Government will send a response. At 100,000 signatures, the petition will be considered for a debate in Parliament. Nicola currently has nearly 20,000 signatures.

A PwC representative said that the company use a job agency to supply its reception staff and that this dress code is not PwC's **policy**.

Source: Google



1. _____ (phrase): rules for what you can wear
2. _____ (phrasal verb): to arrive, appear
3. _____ (noun): a document that has been signed by a lot of people officially asking someone in authority to do something
4. _____ (adjective): showing that you understand and care about someone's problems
5. _____ (adjective): not modern
6. _____ (phrase): because someone is forcing you, not because you want to do it
7. _____ (noun): a rule or guideline about how workers should behave or what they should do in certain situations

Answer any of the following questions in pair or small groups.

1. Why was Nicole Thorp sent home?
2. Why did she complain?
3. How did she tell people about it?
4. What is she trying to do now?
5. How does she feel about current work dress codes in the UK?
6. How many more signatures does her petition need?
7. What was the company's response?

Match the words below to form phrases from the text. For each phrase, create a sentence.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. turn up | a petition |
| 2. wear | in flat shoes |
| 3. force women | makeup |
| 4. sign | reception staff |
| 5. supply | to wear heels |



3 UK/US English

Match the following British English clothing terms to their equivalent US terms.

British English

1. tights
2. trainers
3. trousers
4. a vest
5. a dinner jacket
6. a jumper
7. dungarees

American English

- a. an undershirt
- b. a sweater
- c. a tuxedo
- d. overalls
- e. pants
- f. pantyhose
- g. sneakers

Work in pairs. Tell your partner which of the above items of clothing you wear often, sometimes, rarely and never. Use the British English names first, then repeat with American English.

4 Clothing verbs

Complete the following text by putting verbs/phrases below into their correct form.

fit
put on

get changed
get dressed

hang up
take off

iron
try on

Jeff got up at 6.30 am, had a shower and got dressed. He _____² his usual suit and left for work by car. After finding a suitable parking spot, it suddenly started to rain. Fortunately, he had an umbrella in the car. When he got to the office, he _____³ his jacket and _____⁴ the umbrella behind the door. Jeff checked his Google calendar and realised he had a very important meeting with his supervisor in the afternoon! He had forgotten to _____⁵ his shirt, so he visited a local clothing store during his lunch break to buy a new one. While looking around, he noticed a nice striped cotton shirt, and he decided to _____ it _____⁶. The shirt _____⁷ him just fine. So after paying, he went into the changing room and _____⁸.

5 Talking point

Answer any the following questions.

1. Do you have a strict or relaxed dress code at work?
2. In which professions do you think it is more important to follow a dress code? Do you think a dress code is important?
3. What are work dress codes like in your country?

